Grant of autonomy to J and K

*59. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported press statement by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to the effect that the grant of autonomy to the State was a pre-requisite for the return of peace to the valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that during his meeting with the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister reiterated his position and received some assurances from him; and

(d) if so, the details of the assurance given by the Prime Minister with regard to the demand for autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANANI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government is aware of the media reports about the statement purportedly made by the Chief Minister of J & K. Voices have been raised both in favour and against the grant of autonomy to J & K, in the past. The Government is of the firm conviction that national integration and devolution of powers to the States must go together and is committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide ranging devolution of powers to the States leading to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and fullest realization of the creative potential of all sections of our people.

(c) and (d) The matter relating to devolution of power for Jammu & Kashmir was discussed by the CM, J & K, with the Prime Minister on 24-06-2002, and it was decided that a representative of the Central Government would hold discussions with the Government of J & K on this issue.

Complaint against EU in WTO

*60. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to lodge a complaint with the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement panel against the European Union for refusing extend to it the preferential treatment granted to textile export from Pakistan under the generalised system of preferences scheme;